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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/677,314	09/29/2000	Ralph Bonomo	RPS9-00-0058	2397

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IBM CORPORATION
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EXAMINER

VO, TIM T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2189

DATE MAILED: 03/13/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/677,314

Applicant(s)

BONOMO ET AL.

Examiner

Tim T. Vo

Art Unit

2189

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 September 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Part III DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant(s)

This application has been examined. Claims 1-20 are pending.

Claim Objections

Claim 9 is objected to the phrase "POV cards". The acronym POV needs to spell out.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Winston patent number 6,434,653 referred hereinafter "Winston".

As for claims 1, 10 and 17, Winston teaches a method for increasing control information from a single general purpose input/output (GPIO) mechanism (see figure 3, module detection unit 310 and column 4 line 50 to column 5 line 27, wherein the detection unit 310 detects card insertion for slot 103, 106), the method comprising:

utilizing a single GPIO mechanism with a socket on a computer system (see figure 3, module detection 310, line 311 and column 4 line 50 to column 5 line 27,

Art Unit: 2189

wherein the detection module monitors the present of card insertion in slots 103, 106 via line 311); and

determining whether a first card, a second card, or no card is installed in the socket according to detected changes in signals state on a single line between the GPIO mechanism and the socket (see figure 3, module detection 310, line 311, module1 occupation signal, module 2 occupation signal and column 4 line 50 to column 5 line 27, wherein the detection generates module 1 and module 2 occupation signal correspondingly to the detection line 311. Further, figure 7, step 701 discloses if slots 103, 106 is occupied or not).

As for claims 2-5, 13-15, 20, Winston teaches wherein determining further comprises writing a signal in first state by a POST (power on self test) (see column 5 lines 40-65, wherein when power-on the BIOS stored in ROM will perform POST procedures and the lock-out unit 320 determines either the first or second connectors 103, 106 is vacant from the module 1, or module 2 occupation signals and asserts the lock-out signal which causes the power activation correspondingly).

As for claims 6-7, Winston teaches wherein the state of the GPIO mechanism changes in accordance with state changes by the POST routine, no card is installed in the socket (see figure 7, step 701).

As for claim 8, Winston teaches wherein one of the first and second cards pulls-up the signal line, and the other of the first and second cards pulls down the signal line (see figure 6, resistors 610, 611).

As for claim 9, Winston teaches first and second processor cards (see figure 6, cards 630, 631).

As for claims 11-12, Winston teaches wherein the first card occupies the socket, the single signal is pulled to a first logic gate (see figure 6, resistors 610, 611).

As for claims 16, 18-19, Winston teaches circuit comprises resistor-capacitor circuit (see column 2 lines 38-42, termination card).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tim T. Vo whose telephone number is 703-308-5862. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Rinehart can be reached on 703-305-4815. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7239 for regular communications and 703-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-2100.



Tim T. Vo
Examiner
Art Unit 2189

T.V
March 9, 2003